

Niger and Sudan Desert Locust update for the First dekad of December, 2005

Summary

The desert locust situation remained relatively calm in the primary outbreak areas in Niger and Sudan during the first dekad of December. Only scattered adults and hoppers were reported in the winter breeding areas in Tokar Delta in Sudan. Significant developments are not likely in either country during the coming weeks.

Niger

Ecological conditions continued to be less and less favorable with vegetation progressively drying up in most parts of the outbreak areas and the temperatures particularly in the northern parts of the country falling during the first dekad of December. As a result, locust activities slowed down and neither surveys nor control interventions were necessary during this period.

Forecast

Locust activities will continue to slow down and significant developments are not expected in the coming weeks. But based on surveys carried out during the previous dekad, pockets of green vegetations are present in the central parts of Tamesna and in the Air Mountains which will likely attract and allow immature locusts to regroup. Monitoring is essential.

Sudan

According to PPD/Sudan, the desert locust situation remained relatively calm in most of the outbreak areas in the country during the first dekad of December. Only isolated, low density solitary adults were reported in Tokar Delta. Some low density third instar hoppers were also observed in Tibillinai (81814 N/374128 E). The locust numbers did not warrant control interventions during the

reporting period. However, surveys are in progress along the Red Sea coasts.

Forecast

As a result of the heavy rains that fell in Tokar Delta during the third dekad of November and those recorded in Port Sudan and in areas southwest of Port Sudan on December 9, vegetation will gradually become green and ecological conditions will improve. This will likely favor small-scale breeding and new hatchings could be seen in these areas. More and more scattered adults may also be seen in the southern and northern parts of the Red Sea coast. Regular monitoring is essential.

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